

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re patent application of:)
) Before the Examiner
Daniel A. Brennan, et al.)
) Brian L. Swenson
Serial No. 10/749,641)
) Group Art Unit 3618
Filed December 31, 2003)
) January 31, 2006
PORTABLE UTILITY CARRIER)
APPARATUS)

Preliminary Amendment

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P. O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

Preliminary to the examination of the above application please enter the following amendment:

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this document.

Amendments to the Drawings begin on page 9 and include both an attached replacement sheet and an annotated sheet showing changes.

Remarks begin on page 10.

An **Appendix** including amended drawing figures is attached following page 10 of this document.

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions and listings of the claims in this application.

1. (Original) A transportable utility carrier apparatus for coupling to a transport vehicle, comprising:
 - an upper frame;
 - a recessed platform connected to the upper frame;
 - a wheeled base;
 - a lift system interposed between the base and the upper frame for moving the wheeled base relative to the platform between a transport position and a freestanding position;
 - a square hitch tube connected to the upper frame; and
 - a rolled receiver hitch mountable to the transport vehicle;wherein the wheels are spaced from the ground in the transport position;
wherein the square hitch tube is receivable within the rolled receiver hitch; and
wherein the rolled receiver hitch eases insertion of the square hitch tube thereinto to prevent binding on unlevelled ground.

2. (Withdrawn) The transportable utility carrier apparatus of claim 1 wherein the recessed platform further comprises a first recess and a second recess; and further comprising a heatable cooking surface positioned in the first recess.

3. (Withdrawn) The transportable utility carrier apparatus of claim 2 further comprising a refrigerator positioned in the second recess.

4. (Withdrawn) The transportable utility carrier apparatus of claim 2 further comprising a heatable cooking surface positioned in the second recess.

5. (Withdrawn) The transportable utility carrier apparatus of claim 2 wherein platform further comprises:

an upper work surface;

an interior transport volume; and

a hinged panel pivotable between a substantially vertical position defining a closed interior volume and a substantially horizontal position defining an open interior volume;

wherein the hinged panel in the substantially horizontal position further defines a secondary work surface.

6. (Withdrawn) The transportable utility carrier apparatus of claim 5 wherein the upper frame further includes a substantially flat support portion and a plurality of structural members extending substantially perpendicularly therefrom in a direction opposite the wheeled base.

7. (Withdrawn) The transportable utility carrier apparatus of claim 1 wherein the platform further comprises:

an interior transport volume;

a hinged panel pivotable between a first position closing access to the interior transport volume and a second position allowing access to the interior volume;

a fire hose removably coupled to the first hinged panel and positioned within the transport volume when the hinged panel is in the first position; and

a self-powered water pump positioned within the interior transport volume and operationally connectable to the fire hose and to a water source;

wherein the water pump is adapted to pump water from the water source through the fire hose.

8. (Withdrawn) The transportable utility carrier apparatus of claim 7 wherein the platform further comprises a second removable panel for allowing access to the interior transport volume.

9. The transportable utility carrier apparatus of claim 1 wherein the platform further comprises:

an interior transport volume;

a hinged panel pivotable between a first position closing access to the interior transport volume and a second position allowing access to the interior volume; and a plurality of drawers operationally connected to the platform;

wherein each drawer is slideable between a first position substantially within the interior transport volume and a second position substantially without the transport volume.

10. (Withdrawn) The transportable utility carrier apparatus of claim 9 wherein the platform further comprises:

a plurality of discrete cabinets defined within the interior volume; and

a plurality of cabinet doors positionable to prevent access to the cabinets.

11. (Withdrawn) The transportable utility carrier apparatus of claim 1 wherein the platform further comprises:

an interior transport volume;

a hinged top panel pivotable between a first position closing access to the interior transport volume and a second position allowing access to the interior volume; and

a plurality of removable dividers positionable within the interior transport volume to segment the interior transport volume into a plurality of smaller subvolumes.

12. (Withdrawn) The transportable utility carrier apparatus of claim 1 wherein the platform further comprises:
- an interior transport volume;
 - at least one panel movable between a first position closing access to the interior transport volume and a second position allowing access to the interior volume; and
 - a cooling apparatus operationally connected within the platform to refrigerate the interior transport volume;
 - wherein the interior transport volume is divided into a plurality of smaller subvolumes;
 - wherein at least one of the smaller subvolumes is adapted for the transport of pharmaceuticals;
 - wherein at least one of the smaller subvolumes is adapted for the transport of medical equipment.

13. (Withdrawn) The transportable utility carrier apparatus of claim 12 wherein the platform further includes a portable generator.

14. (Withdrawn) A portable hardware carrier and workstation combination for attaching to a transport vehicle, comprising:

- a housing portion having a top work surface, a side surface, and an interior storage volume;

- a wheeled base portion;

- a lift assembly extending between the wheeled base portion and the housing portion;

- a square hitch tube connected to the recessed housing assembly; and a rolled receiver hitch mountable on the transport vehicle;

- wherein the square hitch tube is receivable within the rolled receiver hitch that is mountable on a transport vehicle;

- wherein the square hitch tube is lockingly connectable to the rolled receiver hitch to define a transport position;

- wherein the wheels are spaced from the ground in the transport position; and

- wherein the rolled receiver hitch eases insertion of the square hitch tube thereto to prevent binding on unlevelled ground.

15. (Withdrawn) The portable hardware carrier and workstation of claim 14 and further comprising a hinged panel pivotable between a substantially vertical position defining a closed interior volume and a substantially horizontal position

defining an open interior volume, wherein the hinged panel oriented in the substantially horizontal position further defines a secondary work surface.

16. (Withdrawn) An emergency medical workstation that may be connected to and carried by a vehicle, comprising:

pharmaceutical supplies;

medical equipment;

an internal refrigeration source;

a housing platform defining an interior transport volume;

a square male hitch tube connected to the recessed housing platform; and

a rolled square female receiver hitch mountable on the vehicle;

wherein the rolled receiver hitch lockingly connects to the square male hitch tube to define a transport position;

wherein the housing platform is spaced from the ground in the transport position;

wherein the square male hitch tube is receivable within the rolled receiver hitch; and

wherein the rolled receiver hitch eases insertion of the square hitch tube thereinto on unlevel ground.

17. (Withdrawn) The emergency medical workstation of claim 16 further comprising a wheeled base;

a lift system interposed between the base and the recessed platform for moving the wheeled base relative to the platform between a transport position and a freestanding position.

18. (Withdrawn) The emergency medical workstation of claim 16 further comprising at least one fold down table connected to the recessed platform.

19. (Withdrawn) The emergency medical workstation of claim 16 wherein the medical supplies include electrical diagnostic equipment and surgical tools.

20. (Withdrawn) The emergency medical workstation of claim 16 wherein the medical supplies include electric lights and cutting tools.

21. (Withdrawn) The emergency medical workstation of claim 16 wherein the medical supplies include an air pump.

22. (Currently Amended) A transport assembly that may be connected to and carried by a vehicle, comprising:

~~an upper~~recessed housing platform ~~defining~~for supporting an interior transport volume;

a wheeled base;

a lift system interposed between the base and the ~~recessed~~upper platform for moving the wheeled base relative to the upper platform between a transport position and a use position;

a square male hitch tube connected to the ~~recessed housing~~upper platform; and

a rolled square female receiver hitch mountable on the vehicle;

wherein the rolled receiver hitch lockingly connects to the square male hitch tube to define a transport position;

wherein the ~~housing platform~~wheeled base is spaced from the ground in the transport position;

wherein the square male hitch tube is receivable within the rolled receiver hitch; and

wherein the rolled receiver hitch eases insertion of the square hitch tube thereinto on unlevel ground.

23. (Withdrawn) The transport assembly of claim 22 wherein the square male hitch tube is a universal hitch.

24. (Withdrawn) The transport assembly of claim 22 wherein the square male hitch tube is a pass-through hitch connectable to a hitched trailing vehicle.

25. (Withdrawn) A method of providing emergency services, comprising the steps of:

- a) wheeling an appropriately loaded transport assembly to a transport vehicle, wherein the transport assembly further comprises:
 - a platform having an internal transport volume;
 - a lift system coupled to the platform for moving the platform between a transport position and a freestanding position;
 - a square male hitch tube attached to the lift system;
 - wheels extending from the lift system; and
 - taillights operationally connected opposite the square male hitch tube;
- b) coupling a rollered receiver hitch to the transport vehicle;
- c) connecting the taillights to an electrical system of the transport vehicle;
- d) aligning the square male hitch tube with the rollered receiver hitch;
- e) lowering the lift system to insert the square male hitch tube into the rollered receiver hitch;
- f) locking the square male hitch tube into the rollered receiver hitch;

- g) raising the wheels off the ground; and
- h) transporting the transport assembly to a deployment site.

26. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 25 wherein the transport assembly is adapted to transport tools.

27. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 25 wherein the transport assembly further includes a work surface.

28. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 27 wherein the work surface is pivotably deployable.

29. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 25 wherein the internal transport volume is refrigerated.

30. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 29 wherein the transport assembly is adapted to transport medical supplies.

31. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 25 further comprising the steps:
- i) disconnecting the taillights from the electrical system of the transport vehicle;

- j) lowering the wheels to the ground;
- k) decoupling the square male hitch tube from the rolled receiver hitch;
- l) raising the lift system such that the platform is elevated to a desired height; and
- m) wheeling the transport assembly to a desired location.

32. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 31 further comprising the steps of:

- n) wheeling the transport assembly to the transport vehicle;
- o) reconnecting the taillights to the electrical system of the transport vehicle;
- p) aligning the square male hitch tube with the rolled receiver hitch;
- q) lowering the lift system to insert the square male hitch tube into the rolled receiver hitch;
- r) locking the square male hitch tube into the rolled receiver hitch;
- s) raising the wheels off the ground; and
- t) transporting the transport assembly to away from the deployment site.

33. (New) A transport apparatus connectable to a hitch-equipped vehicle, comprising:

a housing platform;

a rollable base;

a lift system of extending between the base and the housing platform for moving the rollable base relative to the housing platform between a first position and a second position;

a square male hitch tube connected to the housing platform; and

a rolled square female receiver hitch mountable on the vehicle;

wherein the rolled receiver hitch lockingly connects to the square male hitch tube to define a first position;

wherein the rollable base is spaced from the ground in the first position;

wherein the square male hitch tube is receivable within the rolled receiver hitch; and

wherein the rolled receiver hitch eases insertion of the square hitch tube thereinto on unlevel ground.

34. (New) The transportable utility carrier apparatus of claim 1 wherein the wheeled base is closer to the upper frame when the apparatus is in the transport position than when the apparatus is in the freestanding position.

35. (New) The transport assembly of claim 22 wherein the housing platform defines an interior transport volume.

36. (New) The transport assembly of claim 22 and further comprising a housing connected to the housing platform, wherein the housing defines an interior transport volume.

37. (New) The transport apparatus of claim 33 and further comprising a housing connected to the housing platform, wherein the housing defines an interior transport volume.

38. (New) The transport apparatus of claim 33 wherein the housing defines a recessed storage volume.

39. (New) The transport apparatus of claim 33 wherein the lift system is a scissors lift.

40. (New) The transport apparatus of claim 39 wherein the scissors lift is expanded in the second position and contracted in the first position.

41. (New) The transport apparatus of claim 33 wherein the rolled base includes a plurality of wheels extending therefrom.

Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached sheet of drawings includes changes to FIG. 9A and FIG. 9B. The new FIGs. 9A and 9B better illustrate the relation of screw member 232 and frame member 217. FIGs. 9A and 9B have been revised for clarification; no new matter is believed to have been introduced.

Attachment: Replacement drawing sheets

Annotated drawing sheets showing changes

REMARKS

Claim 22 has been amended herein, and new claims 33-41 have been added. No additional fees are believed to be necessary.

Original FIGs. 9A and 9B have been replaced with revised FIGs. 9A and 9B to more clearly illustrate the device. No new matter is believed to have been added.

The Examiner is hereby authorized to charge any fees connected with this communication to Deposit Account 50-0410. The undersigned welcomes a telephonic interview with the Examiner, if the Examiner believes that such an interview would facilitate review of the subject patent application.

Respectfully submitted,

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